Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the "SUMMARY OF INVENTION," beginning on page 2, lines 28-32 and ending on page 3, lines 1-11 with the following amended SUMMARY OF INVENTION:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In order to solve the above and other problems, according to a first aspect of the current invention, a method of selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, including: selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color; selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception; and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range, wherein the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range being from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the second point being selected at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or more than four.

According to a second aspect of the current invention, a memory medium storing a computer executable program for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, the executable program including the steps of: selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color; selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception; and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range, wherein the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range being from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the second point being selected at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or more than four.

According to a third aspect of the current invention, a system for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, including: a memory storage unit for storing data for representing the Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a

predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels; a processing unit connected to the memory storage unit for selecting a first point as a first color and a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, the processing unit also determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range; and a display unit connected to the processing unit for displaying the second color against the first color, wherein the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range being from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the processing unit selecting the second point at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or more than four.

According to the fourth aspect of the current invention, a method of selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, including selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color, selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second

color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range is from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the second distance being longer than the first distance, the second point being selected at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or less than one-fourth and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range.

According to the fifth aspect of the current invention, a method of selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, including selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color, selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range is from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line

intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the first distance being longer than the second distance, the second point being selected at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or more than four and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range.

According to the sixth aspect of the current invention, a method of selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, including selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color, selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, an inter-point distance is defined between the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a parallel line that is parallel to the achromatic axis, the inter-point distance being at least four and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range.

According to the seventh aspect of the current invention, a method of selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined

saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, including selecting a first point in the Munsell color-order system as a first color, selecting a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, an inter-point distance is defined between the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicular line that is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the inter-point distance being at least four and determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range.

According to the eighth aspect of the current invention, a system for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, including a memory storage unit for storing data for representing the Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, a processing unit connected to the memory storage unit for selecting a first point as a first color and a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range is from zero to ten, the

perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the first distance being longer than the second distance, the processing unit selecting the second point at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first distance over the second distance is equal to or more than four, the processing unit also determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range and a display unit connected to the processing unit for displaying the second color against the first color.

According to the ninth aspect of the current invention, a system for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, including, a memory storage unit for storing data for representing the Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, a processing unit connected to the memory storage unit for selecting a first point as a first color and a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, the first point is off the achromatic axis, a first distance and a second distance being defined from the achromatic axis respectively to the first point and the second point, the first point and the second point forming a perpendicularly intersecting line that intersects the achromatic axis and is perpendicular to the achromatic axis, the predetermined lightness range is from zero to ten, the perpendicularly intersecting line intersecting the achromatic axis at the lightness level of five, the second distance being longer than the first distance, the processing unit selecting the second point at a point in the Munsell color-order system so that a ratio of the first

distance over the second distance is equal to or less than one-fourth, the processing unit also determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range and a display unit connected to the processing unit for displaying the second color against the first color.

According to the tenth aspect of the current invention, a system for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, including, a memory storage unit for storing data for representing the Munsell color-order system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, a processing unit connected to the memory storage unit for selecting a first point as a first color and a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, an inter-point distance is defined between the first point and the second point, the processing unit selecting the second point so that the first point and the second point forming a parallel line that is parallel to the achromatic axis and that the inter-point distance being at least four, the processing unit also determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range and a display unit connected to the processing unit for displaying the second color against the first color.

According to the eleventh aspect of the current invention, a system for selecting an optimal color with respect to a background color using Munsell color-order system, including, a memory storage unit for storing data for representing the Munsell color-order

system, the Munsell color-order system being represented in a three dimensional space around an achromatic axis in a vertical direction, the vertical direction representing a predetermined lightness range of lightness levels, a horizontal direction representing a predetermined saturation range of saturation levels, a circumference around the achromatic axis representing a predetermined hue range of hue levels, a processing unit connected to the memory storage unit for selecting a first point as a first color and a second point in the Munsell color-order system as a second color at a predetermined relative distance from the first point, the first point and the second point forming a relative distance line, the second color being sufficiently distinctive in combination with the first color for desired human perception, an inter-point distance is defined between the first point and the second point, the processing unit selecting the second point so that the first point and the second point forming a perpendicular line that is perpendicular to the achromatic axis and that the inter-point distance being at least four, the processing unit also determining an optimal color range of colors from the second point in the Munsell color-order system, the second color being selected from the optimal color range and a display unit connected to the processing unit for displaying the second color against the first color.